The recent Report of the Royal Agricultural Commission in India lays great stress on rural reconstruction and development. The Committee have made it sufficiently clear that this could not be achieved by the contributions at present made from the Provincial Revenues to the local bodies. What they say of British India in this matter is true of our State.

We have, therefore, to proceed cautiously in the matter, and all aspects of the question would be considered when this portion of the report of the Special Finance Committee is taken up. Meanwhile a provision of Rs. 1,84,664 is made in the present budget.

Co-operative Societies.—The executive staff of the Department, which was quite under-manned and to which I referred in detail last year, was strengthened during the course of the year by the full complement of the Inspectorate recommended since by the Special Finance Committee. Provision for all of them has been made under 'Temporary Establishment' for next year. With the strengthened staff I hope that the Department will spread itself all throughout the State shedding its beneficence on our indebted rural population and doing all that Co-operation stands for.

Forests and Tramway.—I now come to a subject which has ever been in the forefront of the budget discussions in the Legislative Council and which has been the bug-bear to successive administrations— I mean the Forests and Tramway. Government have carefully perused the report of the Special Finance Committee with its notes of dissent, and more or less in the light of the recommendations therein practically ordered the discontinuance of the Tramway from the end of 1103. In issuing these orders Government had thought that it would be possible to bring down all valuable timber during the course of 1103. A close perusal of the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee would show that they were not for leaving to decay the valuable timber that could be felled and transported with the help of the Tramway. They only suggested that it should be possible to complete the work of extraction and transport before the close of Makaram 1103. I had then made it clear that the suggestion was not feasible. I shall repeat what I then remarked. 'Government are, however, assured that in the present condition of the Tramway it will not be possible to bring down the timber in so short a period as recommended by the Committee. But if the work is pushed through, which the Government are insisting, it may be possible to bring down the timber *perhaps* in 1103 itself. Please note the word *perhaps*. Even then Government had their own misgivings whether the

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works could be finished in 1103,and the result has justified their doubt. It has also to be remarked that the programme of work laid down by the Government was dislocated by the reduction of grant carried in the Legislative Council under 'Timber, etc., removed by Sirkar Agency.' The cut forced the Government to adopt a revised programme providing for much less extraction of timber. The quantity ordered to be extracted has further not been fully felled. It is understood there is now more than 14,000 candies of timber still awaiting extraction from the area tapped by the Tramway, and I hardly think that any non-official friends would advise the Government to suspend or abolish the Tramway allowing so much valuable standing trees to rot and decay. By the extraction of 12,000 candies out of the above 14,000 candies, the Conservator of Forests expects in the ensuing year a net gain of about Rs. 1,15,600 after meeting the maintenance charges of the Tramway, while the Tramway Engineer is of opinion that a net gain of about Rs. 1,40,400 can be had by extracting 13,500 candies. Taking either of the estimates as our basis, the results expected are not discouraging. Would any Member of the House suggest that, in these circumstances, the Tramway should be scrapped immediately? I hope not especially till we are satisfied that it serves no useful purpose. Having spent a large amount as capital outlay, it is our duty to see if it cannot be mended before it is ended, and this can be decided only after conducting a careful reconnoitring survey of the areas tapped by the Tramway to fully explore the possibility of the existence of any more valuable species of timber. The Government are considering the matter. In the light of the explanation now furnished, I hope that the House will find their way to pass the demands under 'Forests' and 'Tramway' in full. If the Members have any more doubts to clear, I am sure, my friend, the Member for Forests, will be able to convince them by facts and figures.

General Administration.—The only item that I have to remark upon is the temporary establishment of a special clerk on Rs. 100 and a typist on Rs. 25 proposed to be entertained from 1st Chingam 1104, and for which a provision of Rs. 1,375 has been made being their cost for a period of 11 months. This new establishment is intended for the purpose of compiling and printing some old valuable records.

Accounts and Finance Department.—It is proposed to strengthen the Account Office Establishment by an addition of six hands to cope with the increasing work of the Department. Of these, four are intended for office work and the remaining for local audit. It is also proposed to convert the post of a Senior

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